



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

21st meeting

Wednesday, 3 November 2004, 9.30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. De Alba (Mexico)

The meeting was called to order at 9.55 a.m.

Agenda items 57 to 72 (continued)

Action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under all disarmament and international security items

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The First Committee will today continue to take action on draft resolutions listed in informal working paper 5, revision 1. I would first like to make an announcement in that connection.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34, which is under the cluster entitled "Nuclear weapons", will be taken up at the 22nd meeting. Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev. 1, which is under the cluster entitled "Other disarmament measures", will also be considered at a later meeting.

The Committee will now begin its consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56, entitled "Bilateral strategic nuclear arms reductions and the new strategic framework", under cluster 1, "Nuclear weapons".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56, entitled "Bilateral strategic nuclear arms reductions and the new strategic framework".

The representative of the Russian Federation introduced the draft resolution at the Committee's 12th meeting, held on 20 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in document A/C.1/59/L.56.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I should like to inform members that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

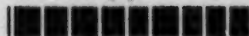
Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on the draft resolution just adopted.

Ms. Borislav Bonnier (Sweden): I take the floor on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition — Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and my own country, Sweden — to make an explanation of position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56. The New Agenda Coalition joined the consensus on that draft resolution, but would like to make a few remarks of an interpretive character.

The sponsors of the draft resolution have asked the General Assembly to acknowledge the contribution to nuclear disarmament made by reductions in their deployed strategic warheads. Naturally, we acknowledge that reduced deployment is a positive development. At the same time, we hold the view that reductions in deployment and operational status cannot replace irreversible cuts in, and actual destruction of,

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nuclear weapons. We therefore look forward to continued developments leading to their total elimination, in line with obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Furthermore, while we appreciate the specific information given by the two sponsors, it is of course rather difficult for the General Assembly as such to explicitly recognize the exact numbers and figures given, as there is no possibility for us to confirm or verify them. We therefore understand the relevant paragraphs as valuable information given by the two sponsors to Member States.

We welcome the determination of the United States and the Russian Federation to work together to fulfil their obligations under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Although the draft resolution does not mention the upcoming NPT Review Conference, we take it that the sponsors will bring their determination to bear at the forthcoming Conference. We look forward to a more thorough review on that occasion of the implementation of the obligations under the NPT and of the commitments made at previous review conferences, including the agreed practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT.

Mr. Rachmianto (Indonesia): My delegation joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56, entitled "Bilateral strategic nuclear arms reductions and the new strategic framework". However, compared to the previous resolution under the same title, resolution 57/68, the current text includes some new elements to which my delegation has some reservations.

Indonesia continues to reaffirm its principled position on nuclear disarmament and the interlinked issue of non-proliferation. We also stress that the important efforts being made towards non-proliferation should be carried out parallel to simultaneous endeavours towards nuclear disarmament. We would also like to express our concern about the threat to humankind emanating from the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use.

We have taken note of the signing, on 24 May 2002, of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions between the Russian Federation and the United States and of its entry into force on 1 June 2003. We believe it necessary to reiterate that reductions in deployments and operational status cannot substitute for irreversible

cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. The United States and Russia have missed an opportunity to verifiably dismantle their still massive cold-war-era nuclear arsenals and to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their military strategies. Moreover, new nuclear weapons — and, possibly, renewed nuclear testing — are on the horizon. While the reductions are welcomed, we believe that they do not meet the unequivocal undertaking under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament.

We are aware of the fact that there are still about 30,000 nuclear weapons. The international community remains uncertain about the time frame for the dismantlement and destruction of those weapons.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): My delegation would like to explain its position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56.

The so-called Moscow Treaty set out several bilateral commitments to reduce the capacity to deploy or alter the operational status of nuclear weapons of the two States concerned. In that regard, we reiterate that negotiations and commitments of that sort should not be a substitute for multilateral negotiations among nuclear-weapons States, aimed at final and irreversible reductions and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We also reaffirm that agreements to reduce or eliminate such weapons should always include the principles of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility.

Under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), nuclear-weapon States must fully comply with the commitments they have entered into. Nuclear disarmament is a fundamental component of that. In that connection, Cuba believes it both urgent and essential to carry out an in-depth discussion about the reasons for non-compliance with the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed upon at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Once that is done, we should debate and agree corrective actions or steps to speed up the process in order to fully comply with those steps. We should also put forward new practical steps to achieve nuclear disarmament. Among other things, they could include beginning negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on a multilateral convention on nuclear disarmament that includes the

elements of disarmament, non-proliferation in all its aspects, verification, cooperation and assistance.

With regard to what is set out in the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56, my delegation would like to emphasize that responsibility for threats to international peace and security must be shared by the nations of the world and must be part of a multilateral undertaking. The Organization will have to play a leading role in that connection, given that it is the world's most universal and representative body.

In addition, my delegation laments the fact that draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.56 was not the subject of negotiation, owing in particular to the position taken by one of the sponsors.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the fact that Cuba firmly supports general and complete disarmament under strict international control. In particular, we support the complete elimination of nuclear weapons — which is the highest priority — as well as the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, as we are aware of the inherent danger posed to all humankind by the very existence of such weapons.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.17/Rev.1, entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction", which is under cluster 2.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.17/Rev.1, entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

The representative of Hungary introduced the draft resolution at the Committee's 11th meeting, held on 19 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.17/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/INF/2.

I shall now read out an oral statement in connection with the draft resolution.

"In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.17/Rev.1, entitled 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction', I wish to put on record the following statement on financial implications, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"By operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences, including all necessary assistance to the annual meetings of the States parties and the meetings of experts.

"The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of Member States to the fact that the States parties to the Convention, at the 9th plenary meeting of the fifth Review Conference, on 15 November 2002, approved the cost estimates for servicing the annual meetings of the States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, of one week's duration each year, commencing in 2003 and until the sixth Review Conference, and the two-week meetings of experts to prepare each meeting of the States parties.

"It is recalled that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that under their respective legal arrangements are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may be undertaken by the Secretariat only when sufficient funding is received in advance from States parties."

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I should like to inform members that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.17/Rev.1 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.17/Rev.1 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now proceed to take up draft resolutions under cluster 4, entitled "Conventional weapons": draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2*.

I call on the representative of Egypt, who wishes to speak in explanation of position before a decision is taken.

Mr. Shamas (Egypt) (spoke in Arabic): The delegation of Egypt would like to clarify that, despite the fact that it will join in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1, it believes that consideration of the issue of experts on the subject of brokering in small arms and light weapons should be postponed until the Open-ended Working Group on identifying and tracing illicit small arms and light weapons has dealt with the matter.

The negotiating mandate given the Group has proven to be weak and ineffective. The Group must consider a number of crucial issues and submit them to negotiations. We witnessed the negative impact of its current procedures during the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group to discuss whether the instrument being negotiated was to be a political document or a legally binding document. We should therefore wait upon successes in the Group's work, because failure would mean that we would have to consider other options with regard to brokering.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

The representative of Colombia introduced the draft resolution at the Committee's 14th meeting, held on 22 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.1, Add.2, Add.4, Add.5 and Add.7. In addition, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, the Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey have also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

I shall now read out an oral statement in connection with the draft resolution.

"In connection with draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1, entitled 'The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects', I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"By operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects will be held in New York for a period of two weeks between 26 June and 7 July 2006. It would also decide that the preparatory committee for the conference will hold a two-week session in New York from 9 to 20 January 2006, and reiterates that, if necessary, a subsequent session of up to two weeks in duration may be held. It would further decide that the second biennial meeting of States, as stipulated in the Programme of Action, to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action will be held in New York from 11 to 15 July 2005. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General, while seeking the views of States, to continue to hold broad-based consultations, within available financial resources, with all Member States and interested regional and subregional organizations, on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, with a view to establishing, after the 2006 review conference and no later than 2007, and after the conclusion of the work of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, a group of governmental experts, appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. It would also request the Secretary-General to

report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the outcome of his consultations.

"Pursuant to operative paragraph 1, it is envisaged that the review conference would hold 20 meetings in New York between 26 June and 7 July 2006. Pursuant to operative paragraph 2, it is envisaged that the preparatory committee for the review conference would hold 40 meetings in New York from 9 to 20 January 2006. It is envisaged that the activities called for in operative paragraph 5, regarding the establishment of a group of governmental experts, would take place in 2006 and 2007, and that the group would hold one session in 2006 and two sessions in 2007, of one week's duration each. Accordingly, the related conference servicing requirements, at full cost, in 2006 and 2007 are estimated at \$1,082,582 and \$246,604, respectively. The extent to which the Organization's capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2006-2007. Provision for such requirements would be considered under the relevant section for conference services in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years.

"It is also envisaged that non-conference servicing requirements would be required for the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information in connection with the review conference and its preparatory committee, referred to in operative paragraphs 1 and 2; and, in the case of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, also for the servicing of the session of the proposed group of governmental experts referred to in operative paragraph 5. In that connection, the estimated requirements, amounting to \$512,000 and \$552,000 for the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information, respectively, would be considered in the context of the

proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

"With regard to the implementation of the request contained in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, concerning the second biennial meeting of States, provision has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. It is noted that the implementation of the request contained in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, regarding the holding of broad-based consultations, is contingent on the availability of resources in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

"The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section 6 of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions."

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I should like to announce that Bulgaria has joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1.

I would like to inform members that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1 have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We shall now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2*, entitled "Prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stone (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2*, entitled "Prevention

of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems”.

The representative of Australia introduced the draft resolution at the Committee's 14th meeting, held on 22 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2*, A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2/Add.3, Add.4, Add.5, Add.6 and Add.7. In addition, Armenia, Brazil, Japan, Liechtenstein, Samoa and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have now become sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I would like to inform members that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2* have expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2 was adopted.*

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I shall now call on those delegations wishing to explain their positions on the draft resolutions just adopted.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): My delegation would like to explain its position on the two draft resolutions that have just been adopted.

With regard to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1, we would like to say that Cuba has a clear position against the illicit trade in arms in all its aspects, including small arms and light weapons. We therefore support the holding of consultations to explore possible new measures acceptable to all States that will make it possible to enhance international cooperation in order to prevent, combat and eliminate illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. We believe that, given the importance of this subject, any consultation process in that regard should take place in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. It would not be desirable to discuss this matter in a limited context that does not provide for the participation of all interested States on an equal footing. This subject must be examined carefully, comprehensively and on the basis of strict respect for the principles established in the Charter, in particular as regards respect for sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. In discussing this topic, we must also take into consideration the need to respect the right of States to legitimate self-defence.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that preventing, combating and eliminating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons cannot be seen in isolation and must be part of an overall strategy. In order to make progress in that regard, the full implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the national, regional and international levels must be a fundamental prerequisite.

With regard to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2*, we believe that we should not continue to introduce and adopt resolutions on specific aspects of the subject of small arms and light weapons — of which man-portable air defence systems are a part — at a time when we are moving towards the adoption of an international instrument to prevent the illicit trade in such weapons. Likewise, we should bear in mind that the Committee has adopted various draft resolutions on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Furthermore, we are struck by the fact that, at a time when the Committee is in the process of improving its methods of work, some of the main proponents of that streamlining exercise are introducing specific draft resolutions such as A/C.1/59/L.49/Rev.2*, which ultimately seem to duplicate efforts already being made in the General Assembly.

Mr. Baeldi-Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran): I am speaking to explain the position of my delegation with respect to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1, entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”.

My delegation fully shares the aim of effectively implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was extensively negotiated and adopted by the United Nations and which encompasses various aspects of the issue. In that regard, brokering is one of the elements being seriously considered by Member States. We are at the initial stage of deliberations on this matter. As the outcome of the open-ended consultations on brokering clearly indicates, there is as yet no agreement on the establishment of a panel of governmental experts on the issue.

We therefore view operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.43/Rev.1 as having been intended merely to keep open the possibility of

establishing a panel of governmental experts as part of contingency planning. As that paragraph indicates, the establishment of such a panel would be subject to agreement within the Open-ended Working Group to negotiate an international instrument on tracing and marking.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2, entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context", under cluster 6.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2, entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

The representative of Pakistan introduced the draft resolution at the Committee's 16th meeting, held on 25 October 2004. The sponsor of the draft resolution is named in document A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I would like to inform members that the sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2 has expressed the wish that it be adopted by the Committee without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I now call on the representative of India, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the draft resolution just adopted.

Mr. Pardeshi (India): The Indian delegation would like to explain its position on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2, entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

India believes that confidence-building measures can play an important role in establishing an atmosphere of trust, cooperation and confidence, which, in turn, are conducive to the resolution of outstanding issues through peaceful means. We have joined the consensus on the draft resolution in keeping with the importance we attach to confidence-building measures. We acknowledge the improvements that have been made in the text of draft resolution

A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2 as compared with resolution 58/43, which was adopted last year and which presented concepts not in keeping with generally accepted principles on confidence-building measures.

Our joining the consensus today should not be viewed as support for resolution 58/43, to which the text of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.45/Rev.2 refers in its second preambular paragraph.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Before we turn to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2, I call on representatives wishing to make statements.

Mr. Dilija (Albania): Albania considers draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2 to be an important and well-intended document that aims to promote the spirit of cooperation in the region. We are doing our best in that regard and would like both to be part of the consensus on the draft resolution and to remain on its list sponsors.

Owing to concerns about some references in the twelfth preambular paragraph, we are continuing our discussion with the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which introduced the draft resolution. We have asked that they postpone action on the draft resolution until the Committee's next meeting.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Chair has received no request from any of the sponsors to postpone the Committee's consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2. To date, it has been the policy of the Chair to propose postponement only when the sponsors call for it. I would therefore ask the sponsors whether they would like to proceed or whether they are willing to accept the request of the representative of Albania to postpone consideration of the draft resolution.

Mr. Škrabalo (Croatia): I would like to support the request made by Albania. Croatia is a sponsor of the draft resolution, and we would request that a decision on it be postponed until tomorrow.

Mr. Freeman (United Kingdom): I would briefly like to say that we too would be supportive of a postponement, if that is helpful to Albania and others.

Mr. Rowe (Sierra Leone): I would simply like to say that my delegation has no objection to a postponement.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): Although I am in the hands of the Committee, I believe that, for

the sake of consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2, we could accept postponing its consideration to a later meeting. However, I once again call on delegations to abide by the Chairman's request, today and in the remaining days of the Committee's work, to inform him in a timely manner, and after having consulted with sponsors, when there is a need to postpone action on a draft resolution.

There are thus no further draft resolutions for us to consider at this meeting. I would like to propose that we try to deal with all pending matters at the meeting scheduled for tomorrow. I believe that the ongoing negotiations on draft resolutions could be concluded today, if we use our time efficiently and, above all, in a

constructive spirit on the part of all delegations. The same goes for the various exercises being carried out by the Chairman in connection with next year's programme of work, the General Assembly's agenda for the next session and the strategic plan. I believe that, although there are several issues pending, most of them are ready for discussion. I would therefore ask the Committee to make an effort so that tomorrow we can take up final versions of the remaining draft resolutions.

I propose that we adjourn this meeting and utilize the time remaining to allow all delegations to meet informally to review pending matters.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

22nd meeting

Thursday, 4 November 2004, 9.30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. De Alba..... (Mexico)

The meeting was called to order at 9.55 a.m.

Agenda items 57 to 72 (continued)

Action on all draft resolutions and decisions submitted under all disarmament and international security items

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): This morning we will take action on draft resolutions listed in informal document 6. It is my intention then to adjourn the formal part of our meeting and proceed to an informal meeting to consider pending matters to which the informal document refers. These relate to the strategic framework considered by the Committee on Programme and Coordination, to the exercise initiated by the Chairman with respect to the programme of work for the sixtieth session, and to the streamlining of our agenda. We might also address, albeit briefly, the matter of reports.

I now invite the Committee to begin consideration of the draft resolution under thematic cluster 1 on nuclear weapons.

I shall now give the floor to those representatives wishing to make statements in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Issa (Egypt) (spoke in Arabic): I should like to explain Egypt's vote with respect to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.34 on the start of negotiations on an official international document on the prohibition of the production of fissile

material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

Egypt's support for this draft resolution is based on our belief that a convention can be elaborated, and that such a convention will be an effective instrument for ensuring progress towards nuclear disarmament — hence our support for this draft resolution, and in particular for the outcome document published in 2000 following the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference. The document stated that such a convention should contribute significantly to nuclear disarmament, meaning that we should broaden its scope to include stockpiles of fissile material for the production of nuclear weapons.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.34, entitled "The Conference on Disarmament decision (CD/1547) of 11 August 1998 to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled 'Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament', an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices".

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34, entitled "The Conference on Disarmament decision (CD/1547) of 11 August 1998 to

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establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled 'Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament', an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices".

This draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Canada at the Committee's 11th meeting, on 19 October. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.34 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.1*, Add.3*, Add.5 and Add.7. In addition, Bulgaria and Portugal have now become sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Committee will now take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34.

A recorded vote was requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian

Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34 was adopted by 147 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Saudi Arabia informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now call on those representatives wishing to make statements in explanation of vote on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Rivasseau (France) (*spoke in French*): I am taking the floor to explain my delegation's vote on the draft resolution on the negotiation of a treaty to prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

By voting in favour of this resolution, France wishes once again to show its support for the launching of negotiations on a cut-off treaty in the Conference on Disarmament. We regret, however, that the text that was submitted this year, in a form identical to that of the resolutions traditionally adopted under this agenda item, does not take account of recent developments in this field. Questions have been raised with respect to the objectives that the international community should now set with a view to reaching a speedy conclusion of such a treaty, and these should be carefully considered.

In the past, similar draft resolutions have always been adopted by consensus. We regret that this year, the concerns expressed by a number of delegations on

the importance of avoiding division within the First Committee were not better taken into account.

Mr. Freeman (United Kingdom): It is with regret that the United Kingdom has felt the need to abstain on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34. As members will be aware, in previous years we have sponsored draft resolutions on this item.

The United Kingdom remains fully committed to a fissile material cut-off treaty. It also continues to support the effective verification of international arms control treaties. The negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty has long been an agreed priority of the international community, and we would like to see negotiations begin at the Conference on Disarmament in January.

We believe that the draft resolution, as currently worded, divides the international community at a time when consensus to move forward, and to do so as soon as possible, should be our prime objective.

Mr. Bar (Israel): I would like to give an explanation of Israel's abstention from the vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34. Israel views the fissile material cut-off treaty in both regional and global contexts, and its policy is governed by the following two considerations.

First, in the regional context of the Middle East, issues related to nuclear disarmament can be dealt with only after achieving lasting relations of peace and reconciliation, and within the context of overall regional security and stability. Israel's approach to the way to move forward on these issues, inspired by the experience of other regions, is anchored in Israel's long-term vision, and was elaborated in our delegation's explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.8, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

Secondly, in the global context, recent developments highlight the fact that non-compliance of States with their international obligations and the misuse and unchecked dissemination of nuclear fuel cycle capabilities have become among the most pressing challenges in the nuclear non-proliferation field. A fissile material cut-off treaty would not address those challenges and could further complicate them. We therefore believe that overall priority in non-proliferation should be assigned to developing a new,

effective non-proliferation arrangement pertaining to the nuclear fuel cycle.

Mr. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34. However, we too are concerned at the fact that there was a need to put the draft resolution — previous versions of which have traditionally been adopted by consensus — to the vote. In that context, we would like to confirm the readiness of the Russian Federation to begin discussions on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for weapons, at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, on the basis of a broad mandate.

Ms. Sanders (United States of America): The United States continues to support negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a treaty banning the further production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. A fissile material cut-off treaty would establish a legally binding barrier to the further production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. It would contribute to nuclear arms reduction and nuclear non-proliferation goals. However, the United States has concluded that effective verification of such a treaty is not realistically achievable. Furthermore, attempts to negotiate a verification regime would delay the conclusion of that important treaty.

Since draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.34 calls for negotiations under a mandate calling for effective verification, the United States was obliged to vote in opposition to the draft resolution.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I now invite the Committee to proceed to the consideration of the draft resolution under thematic cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery". As members are aware, draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.1 and A/C.1/59/L.13 have been melded. On that item, the Committee will thus proceed to consider draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Committee to waive the 24-hour rule with respect to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60?

I give the floor to the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. Lucas (United States of America): My delegation regrets that we are not in a position at this time to allow a waiver of the 24-hour rule. We therefore request that action be postponed until

tomorrow. I wish also to indicate that the United States has signed on as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I think the Committee will agree that there is no problem with having draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60 be considered tomorrow morning.

The Committee will now consider the draft resolution under cluster 8, "Other disarmament measures". I call on the representative of Mexico to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1.

Ms. García Guerra (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for my delegation, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Estonia, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand and Ukraine, to introduce a draft resolution under agenda item 65 (c): "General and complete disarmament: disarmament and non-proliferation education".

The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", has two precedents. In the first, resolution 55/33 E adopted on 20 November 2000 without a vote, the General Assembly, desirous of stressing the urgency of promoting concerted international efforts at disarmament and non-proliferation and conscious of the need to combat the negative effects of the cultures of violence, requests that the Secretary-General prepare a study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Two years later, on 22 November 2002, by resolution 57/60, also adopted without a vote, the General Assembly, reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and convinced that the need had never been greater for disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially on weapons of mass destruction, but also in the field of small arms and light weapons, terrorism and other challenges to international security, expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the study contained in document A/57/124, and conveyed its recommendations for implementation, as appropriate, by Member States, the United Nations and

other international organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the media.

Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/59/178 and Add.1) compiling input provided by Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations on activities undertaken in accordance with the study's recommendations.

I wish to note that alongside our consideration of the Secretary-General's report, submitted pursuant to the First Committee's resolutions, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1 carefully studied the report, which describes activities undertaken by some Member States, the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations. In that vein, it is our view that, in addition to the report that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution requests of the Secretary-General for the sixty-first session, it is also appropriate to encourage the Secretary-General to have the Department of Disarmament Affairs make maximum use of electronic means for disseminating all the information to be gathered on the implementation of the recommendations of the study on disarmament and non-proliferation education. That is the purpose of paragraph 4, regarding which an oral revision needs to be introduced to specify that that request to the Secretariat refers to the official languages of the United Nations. Paragraph 4 should therefore read as follows:

"Also requests the Secretary-General to utilize electronic means to the fullest extent possible in the dissemination, in as many official languages as feasible, of information related to that report and any other information that the Department of Disarmament Affairs gathers on an ongoing basis in regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study."

On behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1, I would note that the unanimous backing of the General Assembly will reflect the importance the international community attaches to promoting the implementation of the recommendations of the study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1, as orally revised, entitled

"United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee is taking action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1, as orally revised by the representative of Mexico. The oral revision is to add the word "official" before the word "languages" in operative paragraph 4. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.3 and Add.4.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1, as orally revised, have expressed the wish that the Committee adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.53/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We turn now to draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2, under cluster 10, "International security".

I call first on the representative of Albania, who wishes to make a general statement on the draft resolution.

Mr. Dilja (Albania): The draft resolution we are now considering in this cluster (A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2) concerns good-neighbourliness, stability and development in our region, South-Eastern Europe. With that good purpose in mind, Albania had the intention and the will to sponsor the draft resolution, despite some of our reservations. Unfortunately, this year, that could not be the case.

We deeply regret the whole process of the preparation and negotiation of the draft resolution, which was carried out by the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Not a single consultation was held to bring together the parties most interested in this draft resolution, the countries of the region. This prevented us from being able to share and discuss our proposals in a timely fashion with our colleagues from neighbouring countries and other countries that sponsored the draft resolution. One of our proposals sought to amend the eleventh preambular paragraph of the draft resolution by reformulating it or by deleting its final words — "in some parts of the

region" — with the good intention of clarifying and improving it. There was no such reference in the corresponding resolution adopted two years ago, resolution 57/52, or, what is more, in a single one of the many documents adopted in the framework of the regional initiatives we have undertaken during this period. The phrase is also vague and unclear, raising doubts for each and every part of the region. What is more, it runs counter to the spirit of cooperation, the joint efforts and the positive achievements of our region in the area of controlling the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate once again my delegation's regret at the situation I have just explained and our hope that this will not be the case in the consideration of future draft resolutions on this subject.

Because of those reservations, Albania is not sponsoring the draft resolution, but will, nevertheless, join any consensus on it.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I now invite the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2, entitled "Maintenance of international security — good neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe". I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2, entitled "Maintenance of international community security — good neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the Committee's 15th meeting, held on 22 October 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2 and Addenda 1*, 2, 3, 5 and 7 to document A/C.1/59/INF/2. In addition, Andorra, Canada, Hungary, Iceland, Monaco and Switzerland have now become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): It is my understanding that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2 have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to proceed accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.55/Rev.2 was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): We have thus concluded our consideration of the draft resolution under cluster 10 before us today.

Other matters

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call on the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Issa (Egypt): During this session of the First Committee, the delegation of Egypt has asked whether it would be feasible to consider the amount of resources allocated to servicing the Conference on Disarmament. We have checked the United Nations budget, and the financial resources that are allocated every year to servicing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva amount to approximately \$3.7 million.

It is regrettable that the Conference on Disarmament has been unable to agree on a programme of work for the past seven years, and it is even more regrettable, from our point of view, that the amount that is allocated every year is approximately four times as much as what is required to service the United Nations Disarmament Commission, and more than twice as much as what is required to service the First Committee. Both of those bodies have been working, and have been making a substantial contribution to the work of disarmament. We very much hope that the Conference on Disarmament will be able to agree on a programme of work. In the meantime, we trust that it

will be one of our priorities to attempt to have that body meet substantively during the coming year.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I take this opportunity to confirm to the representative of Egypt that, as offered, I have contacted the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, and that the Secretary of our Committee has been in touch with the Fifth Committee Secretary, in order to obtain detailed information concerning that subject. In the light of the statement just made by the representative of Egypt, it seems important to stress that all of us here want the Conference on Disarmament to get down to substantive work as soon as possible.

Regarding the budget, I would ask that we leave any consideration of that subject to the Fifth Committee. Of course, regarding the remarks by the representative of Egypt, it may be useful and relevant for members to become informed in detail through the appropriate channels at the appropriate time.

I propose that we now adjourn this formal meeting. This will provide the Department of Disarmament Affairs an opportunity to make a presentation, in an informal setting, with respect to the Chairperson-designate of the second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Immediately after that, we shall move along to informal consultations on all other pending issues.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.



General Assembly

Fifty-ninth session

First Committee

23rd meeting

Friday, 5 November 2004, 9.30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. De Alba..... (Mexico)

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Agenda Items 57 to 72 (continued)

Action on all draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): This morning, we will take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, under cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery". In that connection, it is my understanding that draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.1 and A/C.1/59/L.13 have been withdrawn.

I call first on the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The following delegations have become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Djibouti, Latvia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

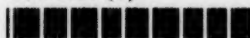
The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I shall call now upon representatives wishing to make general remarks on this cluster.

Mr. Luaces (United States of America): The United States delegation wishes first to confirm for the record our request that action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.1, introduced by our delegation, be deferred indefinitely. It is essentially being withdrawn from consideration by the Committee.

With regard to the general subject, obviously, I think that members of the Committee who have been very active on this subject this year should feel very proud of the work we are about to embark upon today. Even those documents, which seem likely at this point to be adopted by consensus, but which do not deal directly with revitalization, do in fact reflect what has been our common goal over the past two years since this subject was first introduced within the Committee, which is to try to improve communication among delegations that normally do not discuss these issues to try to facilitate a means whereby — by "clearing the decks" and improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Committee — we might be able to dedicate more time to the discussion of substantive issues.

There were some remarks that we were not able to make last year because of the way the last day of the session was finished, and we would be remiss, Mr. Chairman, if we did not take note of your leadership and that of your delegation, and of the tremendous support from the Secretariat staff, which was able to churn out all these documents in various iterations with what, in our system, pretty much passes for what I might call sonic speed. It is our hope that when delegations and Governments look back on the activities of the First Committee this session they will recognize not only how much we have facilitated our Governments' and our delegations' consideration of the issues that come before us in this Committee, but also the contribution that we shall be making through these various documents to the broader efforts by the

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



Secretary-General and by the President of the General Assembly to revitalize the General Assembly and thereby make the United Nations a yet more vital and effective international organization.

Mr. Ozawa (Japan): I would like to make a few remarks concerning cluster 7, "Disarmament machinery". Japan attaches great importance to the reform and revitalization of the First Committee in the light of the significant responsibility of this body in the field of disarmament, and we welcome with great appreciation the efforts made by the United States and the Non-Aligned Movement, the authors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, entitled "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee".

During the course of the consultations, we participated vigorously in the discussion, together with other members, including States of the European Union. We can say that the draft resolution is the fruit of the joint efforts of all the members of the First Committee.

Japan believes that each item proposed in the draft resolution — including the biennialization or triennialization of agenda items, more interactive debates, the drafting of draft resolutions in a concise and action-oriented manner and the holding of informal consultations by sponsors of draft resolutions both before and during Committee meetings — is so important that all of them must be considered seriously in the preparation of the draft resolution for next year.

Japan also appreciates the interactive debates held during our informal meetings on very important issues such as the implementation of resolutions. Under that item we particularly valued the contribution made by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Ambassador Abe. We look forward to another interesting session next year.

Concerning financial aspects, we note that the establishment of panels or groups of governmental experts is authorized by several draft resolutions, such as those on missiles, verification and small arms and light weapons. I would like to emphasize that efforts should be made to utilize existing resources as far as possible when establishing new groups and to avoid the uncontrolled expansion of the United Nations budget.

That is one of the reasons why, in the draft resolution on small arms and light weapons, a group of

governmental experts on brokering will be established only after the conclusion of the work of the Open-ended Working Group on marking and tracing in order to avoid the overlapping of the two groups.

Japan also appreciates the efforts of Ambassador De Alba, Chairman of the First Committee, to formulate a new programme of work and timetable for the First Committee. Japan hopes that next year's session of the First Committee will be conducted in an effective manner under the new programme of work and timetable. All participants can be proud of the fact that the First Committee is at the forefront of United Nations reform.

Mr. Zain (Malaysia): I am taking the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). I should like to refer to the statement just delivered by the representative of the United States concerning the withdrawal of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.1. Malaysia, on behalf of NAM, had presented to the Committee draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.13, entitled "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee", on 19 October 2004. Likewise, the United States delegation had submitted draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.1 of the same title. Subsequently, NAM, together with the European Union, the United States and other interested delegations, engaged in a series of open-ended informal consultations to work on a draft text on the question of improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee. As a result of those consultations, we have agreed on a consolidated draft resolution that encapsulates the vital elements of draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.1 and L.13, as well as the concerns expressed by other delegations.

I am pleased to inform the Committee that after consultations we held, particularly over the past three weeks, a new text has been formulated and will soon be presented by the representative of Indonesia. In that connection, Malaysia, on behalf of NAM, as the sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.13, invoking rule 122 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, wishes to withdraw the draft resolution, entitled: "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee".

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I call on the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60.

Mr. Percaya (Indonesia): I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, entitled

"Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee", under agenda item 65 (k). In the spirit of General Assembly resolution 58/41 and taking into account resolutions 58/126 and 58/316, my delegation believes that the measures outlined in the draft resolution could contribute to the improvement of the functioning and the role of the First Committee. Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60 is the outcome of intensive consultations, which were conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner. As a result, it takes on board a number of proposals contained in draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.1 and L.13 and other proposals submitted by many delegations during the informal consultations.

As the facilitator of the draft resolution, let me express my delegation's sincere thanks and appreciation to the representatives of countries members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the European Union, to the United States and to all other delegations that participated in the consultations for their flexibility, which facilitated the achievement of this consolidated draft resolution. It is my sincere hope that the draft resolution will enjoy consensus.

Let me take this opportunity also to reply to a question raised in one of the informal consultations by the representative of Sierra Leone on the status of draft resolutions A/C.1/59/L.1 and L.13, which have been withdrawn. I can happily say that the consensual marriage between those two draft resolutions has now taken place.

Before we take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, I wish to make two technical corrections to paragraph 6. The word "presented" should be replaced by the word "present" and the words "in achieving the objective" should be replaced by the words "to the achievement of the objective". Paragraph 6 should thus read as follows:

"Encourages all Member States, in particular those that present any draft resolution, to follow up on the agreed resolution in order to contribute to the achievement of the objective of such resolution".

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, entitled "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee", as orally corrected by the representative of Indonesia.

I give the floor to the Secretary of the Committee.

Ms. Stoute (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee will now proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, entitled "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee", as orally corrected by the representative of Indonesia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Indonesia at the Committee's 23rd meeting, held on 5 November 2004. The sponsors of the draft resolution are listed in documents A/C.1/59/L.60 and A/C.1/59/INF/2/Add.8. In addition, the delegations whose names I read out earlier have also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60 have expressed the wish that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft resolution, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, as orally corrected, was adopted.

The Chairman (spoke in Spanish): I congratulate the sponsors of the draft resolution on having succeeded in merging the two previous texts.

I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the draft resolution just adopted.

Mr. Gala López (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): Cuba has always been in favour of improving the working methods of all United Nations bodies, with the proviso that the exercise must not infringe on the right of Member States to promote and uphold their legitimate interests. On that basis, my delegation has supported draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, which was the outgrowth of intensive negotiation under the skilful and transparent leadership of the delegation of Indonesia and with the active involvement of member States.

The draft resolution contains compromise language that made adoption without a vote possible. That is true, for instance, of paragraph 8, which does not establish any new procedures or depart from rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In our view, information provided on the detailed budgeting of the costs entailed in resolutions recommended by the Committee must not stand in the way of the adoption of new legislative mandates. In

that connection, we reaffirm the validity of resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 and later resolutions relevant to this issue. Any subsequent consideration of the established practice under rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly would have to occur in the Fifth Committee, which is charged with the consideration of administrative and budgetary issues.

With the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60, we are hopeful that at its next session the First Committee will focus on considering and vigorously moving forward on those substantive items that are priorities on its agenda. That will require the necessary political will of all member States.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): We have thus concluded our consideration of draft resolutions submitted under all disarmament and international security agenda items.

Other matters

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): We shall now proceed to the consideration of the proposed programme of work and timetable for the Committee's sixtieth session. The relevant document has been circulated in the Conference Room.

May I take it that it is the wish of the First Committee to adopt the proposed programme of work and timetable for the sixtieth session?

It was so decided.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): The Committee will now proceed to the consideration of the draft letter from the Chairman of the First Committee addressed to the President of the General Assembly for the fifty-ninth session.

That document, dated 5 November 2004, has been distributed in the room. In the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft letter.

It was so decided.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like at this point to make a brief statement concerning the preparation of reports. It is my understanding that the Committee considers it important to give particular attention to the preparation and follow-up of reports the Committee itself requests of the Secretariat. In that connection, we look forward to the recommendations

of the Department for Disarmament Affairs on the basis of consultations held at the current session, in particular at the meeting during which we gave close attention to this issue. It is my hope that the Under-Secretary-General will make proposals in that connection for the Committee's future consideration. Again, the aim is to make better use of reports and further facilitate their preparation.

I call on the representative of Armenia, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, to introduce the document on proposed modifications to the proposed strategic framework and to update the Committee on the consultations held this morning.

Ms. Aghajanian (Armenia): I am grateful for this opportunity to report to the Committee on the progress made by those delegations that took part in the consultations on proposed modifications to the proposed strategic framework. I take this opportunity to thank all delegations that were actively involved in the consultations and that expended time and effort to reach agreement on this document, which reflects the consensus position of those present at the consultations.

The document, entitled "Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007", is before delegations. The proposed modifications have already been incorporated into the document. Also, a separate sheet has been distributed, which should replace the first page of subprogramme 3. That separate sheet contains the language acceptable to those that were present in the consultations. With that insertion, the document seems to be agreeable to the delegations that actively took part in the consultations. We are thus ready to present the outcome of the consultations to the Committee for approval.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I congratulate the Vice-Chairperson on her efforts and on the outcome of the consultations.

May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the proposed modifications to the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (programme 3: disarmament) and to report to the General Assembly on the outcome of our consideration of the proposed plan?

It was so decided.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): A number of representatives have requested the floor, and I shall call on them now.

Mr. Zain (Malaysia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). At the outset, NAM wishes to extend its congratulations and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for the highly admirable manner in which you have steered the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The smooth and efficient conduct of the work of the Committee is, indeed, testimony to our leadership and skill as well as to your ability to garner the full confidence and cooperation of all delegations, including the members of the Non-Aligned Movement. Of course, we never doubted your capacity or ability to do so most satisfactorily.

We also wish to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for building on the measures introduced by your predecessor, Ambassador Jarmo Sareva of Finland, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the work of the Committee. Undoubtedly, this is a continuous process, and NAM has taken and will continue to take a supportive and constructive attitude towards any effort aimed at achieving that common objective of ours. The innovative and creative measures that you have introduced and implemented during the course of our deliberations over the past five weeks, which were useful and constructive, have significantly contributed to the positive outcome of our work at this session.

In that connection, NAM hopes that those new measures will be retained and further refined in future sessions, in the interest of the Committee. It has become obvious that the role and product of the First Committee have gained greater significance in recent years. That has become more apparent owing to the inability of other parts of the multilateral disarmament machinery to generate substantive results this year. While we do not wish to paint a bleak picture, the reality is that 2004 has been a disappointing year in the field of multilateral disarmament efforts.

Nevertheless, we share the positive outlook for the successful outcome of the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention to be held in Nairobi at the end of this month and the Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention to be held next month. We look forward also to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held in May 2005, where we believe all the States parties should work together to advance our common goals.

It is our hope that those meetings will provide the much-needed impetus necessary to move the global disarmament agenda forward and to fashion a much safer and more peaceful world. You may rest assured, Mr. Chairman, of the positive and constructive engagement of the Non-Aligned Movement in all those meetings.

In that same spirit, the Non-Aligned Movement, as in previous years, approached this session in a constructive frame of mind. We introduced seven draft resolutions for consideration by the Committee; in that connection, I will recall that we withdrew draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.13. We engaged interested delegations in numerous informal consultation on the texts and, where possible, took into consideration the concerns raised. We continue to find this approach useful in enriching the discussion on the substance of texts.

As at previous sessions, our draft resolutions continued to receive overwhelming support by States members of the Committee. The Non-Aligned Movement would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation and gratitude to all the delegations that supported those draft resolutions. Although sponsored by the Movement, those draft resolutions, along with the others adopted by the Committee, in the final analysis, fall under the ownership of the General Assembly, notwithstanding our national, regional or group interests. As such, we are glad to have had the opportunity to exchange views on the important question of the implementation of and follow-up to the resolutions of the First Committee that the Chairman instituted during our interactive discussion a few weeks ago. We certainly benefited from it, and we look forward to further ideas and proposals that the Chairman and the Secretariat may produce for our consideration in due course.

Recognizing the importance of constantly moving forward and evolving to meet current and future challenges, the Non-Aligned Movement, together with the European Union, the United States and other interested delegations, has been actively engaged in a series of open-ended informal consultations to collectively formulate measures to improve the work of the Committee. Thus, we believe that the adoption by the Committee today of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60 signifies another important milestone in our efforts to improve the work of the Committee and the General

Assembly as a whole, as envisaged in resolutions 58/126 and 58/316.

The Committee has completed consideration of all 16 agenda items allocated to it at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The Committee has also succeeded in adopting three draft decisions and 48 draft resolutions, as compared to seven and 46, respectively, at the previous session. We achieved that in the course of 23 meetings, although our maximum allocation was 26 meetings over a period of five weeks. Those are certainly signs of good achievement.

In that connection, congratulations are due to you, Mr. Chairman, to the other members of the Bureau, to all delegations and groupings and to the Secretariat for all the hard work and for the spirit of cooperation that has prevailed throughout the past five weeks. We should like also to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, who made every effort to ensure smooth deliberations in the Committee.

Finally, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms and reiterates its commitment to promoting international peace and security primarily through disarmament measures. The Non-Aligned Movement strongly reaffirms its belief that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations remain the only sustainable way to address disarmament and international security issues.

Mr. Caughley (New Zealand): I am very pleased, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, to have this opportunity to thank you warmly, Mr. Chairman, for the manner in which you have presided over the work of the Committee throughout our session. As we saw last year as well, skilful chairing of meetings such as these greatly helps set the tone for our work. This is all the more important in circumstances where a central aspect of that work is the revitalization of the way in which we organize and conduct ourselves. Through your adept, patient and altogether impressive efforts, Sir, you have helped us firmly along that path. As the Committee becomes more businesslike, so, too, it increases its sense of purpose. The greater our sense of purpose, the greater our effectiveness in confronting so many issues which are crucial to international security.

In that regard, we welcome the level of cooperation apparent in the Committee, as noted by the

representative of Malaysia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, especially in respect of draft resolution A/C.1/59/L.60.

In conclusion, we are very grateful to you, Sir, for the experience, vitality and good judgement that you have shown throughout the Committee's work this year, to your hard-working Bureau and to all who support us, including notably, Under-Secretary-General Abe.

Mr. Castellón Duarte (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, we wholeheartedly congratulate you on having successfully guided our work. It was a challenge to build on what previous Chairmen have done, and I believe you successfully managed to do that. It was a privilege to have been able to nominate a candidate of your calibre and capabilities, and we are very pleased with the way you have performed. Clearly, Sir, the Committee would not have been so successful had you not enjoyed the cooperation of all delegations and the support of the Secretariat, particularly that of the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Abe, and his staff.

On a number of the draft resolutions that were before us, the desired consensus could not be reached because proposed amendments were rejected. Such differences of opinion are natural in a forum of 191 States where views on how to achieve disarmament can vary from one country or region to the next. But we are certain that all delegations represented here are doing their utmost to attain the common goal of general and complete disarmament and thus to achieve lasting peace everywhere in the world.

In conclusion, I should like to express our appreciation for the support delegations received from the interpreters, translators, editors, documents officers and other members of the Secretariat.

The Chairman (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish once again to express my appreciation to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for having endorsed my candidacy for the chairmanship.

I wish now to offer some brief thoughts, and particularly to say some words of thanks.

Speaking without notes and thus risking errors and oversights, I should like simply to urge members to continue adapting our working methods to allow for better communication among us. In the course of informal consultations I have stressed that we must come to the United Nations in the spirit of working together to find options that will enable us to move forward. Sharing information on our respective positions, on the progress we have made and on the difficulties we have encountered is important. But it is not enough.

We must come here ready to make common commitments to attain common goals. None of us can succeed through individual or national action. The challenges are the same for large countries and small countries; they are global in nature. In matters of disarmament and international security, I think that has been clearly shown.

I am therefore satisfied at the outcome of this session. I think that, probably not enough but to some degree, the Committee has made progress on its agenda. I think we will have to work even harder to continue making progress. We face major substantive challenges. I think that as a result of adapting the Committee's working methods, we now have not just the opportunity but the obligation to focus more on substantive issues. The process of the revitalization of the General Assembly should thus be viewed not as a goal in itself but as a tool for attaining better substantive results.

I especially thank, first and foremost, every member of the Bureau. I think few Chairmen — at least very few of those that I have known — could feel so satisfied and so proud of the support and understanding consistently demonstrated within the Bureau. I had three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur of outstanding quality. Each of them, on various occasions, contributed suggestions and recommendations that were very useful to me. Let me repeat that I do not believe that the Committee could have accomplished much if at this session the Bureau had not had representatives of such high quality: the representatives of Armenia, Israel, Sierra Leone and Yemen.

The support I received from the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and his Department was also extraordinary. It was no mere mechanical support. The support required by the Chairman represented a great challenge for the Office of Under-Secretary-General Abe. They had to respond when they were called upon to do so, often with very little warning and very little guidance, but they were able to do the job. I think that is how both Secretariat and Government officials ought to work.

The support of our Secretary, Ms. Cheryl Stoute, and her entire staff was also essential. More than once, I put our team in a difficult spot, and I apologize to all staff for the haste with which things sometimes had to be done and for the lack of formality at other times. But I think the Secretariat should be able to react to new scenarios and new working methods. Cheryl and all her staff were able to do that; I think the Committee has been in very good hands.

We had outstanding logistical support both with respect to interpretation and, thanks to my friend José Pedro, in the area of documentation.

This has been a collective effort. But I think it was also an individual effort on the part of each representative. Substantive results can be achieved only to the extent that each of us, as Committee members, comes to these annual gatherings open to dialogue, to negotiation, to yielding a little and to trying to understand something of the other's point of view. Together, we can achieve results that I hope will be increasingly substantive.

I do not want to take any more time. From the beginning, I proposed that we be brief in our statements. I have noted on a number of occasions that I myself have not been brief. I again ask pardon for that; I think achieving that brevity is going to be hard for me. I hope that when it is my turn to sit here as a member, I will be able to limit myself to those famous five minutes.

There being no further matters for discussion, I declare closed this stage of the work of the First Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.